GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
REDUCTION IN PDS QUOTA
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to reduce the quota of foodgrains including wheat and rice allocated to various States including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the second half of the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, Category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the States for restoration/ increase of the quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide foodgrains to poor sections of the society in the States facing foodgrain shortage due to such reduction?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 32 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.10.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e):The allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made to all the States/UTs for BPL and AAY families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. While there has been no change in the allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories, which are made @ 35 kg per family per month for all 6.52 crore families accepted as eligible in the country, the allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

The Government has not reduced any quota of foodgrains allocated under TPDS to various states during the second half of the current year. However, keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake figures for the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Further, in view of lower procurement of rice during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 than the demands from various States for 2008-09, the allocations of rice for 2008-09 under APL category to the States/UTs, including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, have been done on the basis of its offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Government has received representations/requests from the States/UTs, including Kerala and Andhra Pradesh for restoration/increase of rice and wheat allocation under APL category. The statements showing the details of requests/representations received from various States/UTs for restoration/increase in APL allocation are at Annex.

In order to augment the availability of foodgrains, to check rise in prices of foodgrains in the open market during festival season 2008 and keeping in view requests from the State/UT governments, the Government has made following allocations of foodgrains:

(a) ADHOC/ADDITIONAL APL WHEAT & RICE ALLOCATIONS TO VARIOUS STATES/UTs.

(i) Adhoc/additional 9,52,500 tons of wheat at APL rate have been released for the period from July to December, 2008 to various States/UTs.

(ii) Adhoc/additional allocation of 20,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Kerala from May to December, 2008 and 78,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Andhra Pradesh from October to December, 2008 and a one time allocation of 20000 tons of rice to J&K in September, 2008 have also been made.

(b) ADHOC/ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS FOR FESTIVALS:

Adhoc/additional allocations of 36000 tons of rice and 192000 tons of wheat at APL rate have been issued for festival season 2008 to various States, including 30,000 tons of rice and 20,000 tons of wheat at APL rate to Kerala.

(c) RELEASE OF WHEAT UNDER OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME (DOMESTIC):

In order to check inflationary trends in food economy during festival season 2008, the Government has released about 9 lakh tons of wheat for sale to retail consumers and 8.4 lakh tons of wheat for sale to bulk consumers during the months of September to November, 2008 under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) to State/UT governments, including 50,000 tons each to Andhra Pradesh and 60,000 tons each to Kerala under the above two categories under this scheme.